Abkari cases during the last three years.

211. Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to lay a statement upon the table as to the number of abkari cases charged, after the license fee was remitted into the Government treasury during the last 3 years;

(b) of these, how many were charged (1) after 5 days, (2) after 10 days and (3) after 15 days after the fee had been remitted;

(c) has the Government or the department at any time cared to inquire into the cause of this; if so, what was the cause of it;

(d) in how many cases of jaggery tappers have the department granted temporary licenses during the last 3 years?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) to (d). The collection of statistics, asked for, is a laborious task involving the examination of a very large number of files and other registers. The information asked for will be given, if the kind of license fee is specified.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—From the answer, I find that "the collection of statistics, asked for, is a laborious task, involving the examination of a very large number of files and other registers. The information asked for will be given, if the kind of license fee is specified.' I want to know about the number of cases charged after 5 days, 10 days, and 15 days, after the money was remitted into the treasury. There is the previous answer to question No. 400, and the answer given to a supplementary question put by me was "I do not think there have been cases of that kind." Now, he says that the collection of statistics is an impossible task.

President.—With reference to any specific license fee, you can put a question.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—So, am I to understand that there are too many cases like that where money was remitted into the treasury after 10 or 15 days?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The question asked in the last session related to jaggery tapping alone. Here, I do not know whether the question is restricted to jaggery tapping alone.

President.—No.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—All abkari cases, illicit tapping possession, etc.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—How many abkari cases were charged during the last 3 years, 5, 10 or 15 days, after the money was remitted into the treasury?

President.—If the license fee is remitted into the treasury, then, what is the charge for?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—I know there are instances where people have been charged after 15 and 18 days after the money has been remitted into the treasury.

President.—You want certain fees for tapping purposes?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—For tapping and also for opening special shops. These are all matters in which the fee is paid and license obtained.

President.—If they have paid the money, then, why should they be charged?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We have to know whether there have been cases.

President.—The proper thing is to state the specific cases with reference to which you say this is a case where the license fee has been paid and the men charged. If you bring a particular case to our notice, then, that is a matter for action.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—My point is this. According to the Abkari Regulation, it is not enough, if money is remitted into the treasury. The delay in handing over the license and marking the tree is on the part of the Excise Officers. I do not say that remitting money into the treasury absolves one from any offence for tapping without getting license. He is guilty of a technical offence under a technical Regulation. My point is to know in how many cases Excise Officers have been guilty of delay in granting licenses and marking the trees. Only after marking the trees they can do that. That is the rule.

President.—If there are specific instances of typical cases in which there has been considerable delay, and the department is not justified in allowing it, if such cases are brought to our notice, then, of course, explanation would be furnished.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—There have been such cases, but I wanted to know the approximate number; that is all.

President.—Your point is about delay. Why not bring specific cases to our notice? Why should such delay occur? One explanation will meet all cases. Otherwise, it will devolve a large amount of work on the department.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—The number of cases charged will be noted in *the Administration Report.* Those files will be there in the office, and a reference to those files will convince anybody as to the number.

The Regulation provides the grant of temporary license, but, in practice, I think that no temporary licenses are generally given to these jaggery tappers. That is the reason why these tappers are charged.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is not a fact that no temporary license is given to jaggery tappers.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—I wanted to know the number, but it is not forthcoming. Is it difficult to find the number?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—In all cases jaggery tappers have been given temporary licenses.

President.—And how many cases will there be like that? How many persons have applied for jaggery licenses?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I think I have given it in answer to another question in 1101. Question 224. The number is 2,139.

President.—And you have given temporary licenses also?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Quite so.

Petitions for jaggery tapping.

212. Mr. Chakko Cheruvattur.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) how many petitions for jaggery tapping were rejected by the Excise Department this year; how many men were on the whole included in those petitions; what were the reasons for their rejection;

(b) has the department prohibited whole villages from exercising this industry; were there not joint petitions from jaggery tappers from the villages of Varavur, Pilakkat and Talasseri for licenses; why were they not granted licenses?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) 32 petitions were rejected this year till 20th Thulam 1102. 48 men were included therein. The reason for rejection was that the applicants were either old offenders against the Abkari Law who had not improved their character, or that they were on enquiry found to be tapping for fermented toddy, or had interest in the conduct of a toddy shop, or they were too old or physically disabled to climb trees themselves. In short, they were not found to be *bona fide* applicants, who will take to the profession honestly.

(b) The department has not now prohibited any village. But there existed complete prohibition in the village of Varavur from 1093 till last year for the reason that the locality, surrounded as it is on all sides by steep hills, formed the stronghold of abkari crimes, and instances of illicit distillation were of every day occurrence. The prohibition was withdrawn from last year. There were two joint petitions, one from Varavur in 1101, and the other from Pulakkad and Titchur in 1102. There were 41 applicants as per these two petitions, of whom licenses were sanctioned for 16 persons. The rest were not granted licenses,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly